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R 022045Z APR 84
FM AMCONSUL CIUDAD JUAREZ
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 3091
INFO RUEHME/AMEMBASSY MEXICO 1914
BT
UNCLAS CIUDAD JUAREZ 0418

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MAY 6 5 21 AM '84

E.D. 12356: N/A
TAGS: MX, PGOV, ELAB
SUBJ: MAY DAY FESTIVITIES IN CIUDAD JUAREZ

1. ON 1 MAY 1984 APPROXIMATELY FORTY THOUSAND WORKERS MARCHED THROUGH DOWNTOWN JUAREZ IN A CONTENTIOUS CELEBRATION OF LABOR DAY. WORKERS FROM THE CTM, THE CRUC, AND OTHER MINOR UNIONS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF THE TRADITIONAL WORKERS' DAY TO PROTEST 1) RECENT INCREASES IN THE PRICE OF BASIS SERVICES AND FOOD. 2) OFFICIAL CORRUPTION AND 3) PRIVILEGES FOR THE WELL OFF. THE PARADE WAS NOT LEAD BY THE MAYOR, AS HAS BEEN THE TRADITION IN PREVIOUS YEARS. THE PARADE WAS INSTEAD LEAD BY LORENZO HOLGUIN, THE LOCAL TAX COLLECTOR AND THE GOVERNOR'S MAN ON THE SPOT. MAYOR BARRIO ATTENDED THE PARADE - ALBEIT AT THE SIDE LINES - BUT LATER DENOUNCED THE PROTESTS AS A PRI MANIPULATION OF THE WORKERS' PROBLEMS.
2. THE COP (COMITE DE DEFENSA POPULAR) ALSO HELD A MAY DAY PROTEST WHICH WAS ATTENDED BY APPROXIMATELY FOUR THOUSAND PEOPLE. THE COP ALONG WITH PSUM, PST, AND PRT, DENOUNCED MAYOR BARRIO WITH ITS CHARACTERISTIC FEROCITY AND AS

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FOR: 060728Z MAY 84

TRADITION DICTATES, BURNED A TIO SAM PINATA.
(DRAFTED BY R.G. OLSON).
TILNEY

END OF MESSAGE

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